

Chairman's Statement On Observation Flights During The Initial Certification Period

As agreed by the Flight Rules and Procedures Working Group (FRPWG), for a fixed period following entry into force (EIF) of the Treaty, scheduled by the FRPWG at a meeting to be held following the deposit of the instrument of the last key ratification, observation flights would only occur by bilateral agreement. During deliberations, the FRPWG recognized the interests of States Parties as follows:

Acknowledge that, following EIF, States Parties may undertake observation flights once their aircraft is certified;

A desire that observation flights do not interfere with a State Party's initial certification process;

A desire by some States Parties to ensure that their own aircraft certification is finished before accepting any observation flights over their territory during the initial certification period;

A desire for smooth certification scheduling and sequencing;

A desire to relieve any perceived pressure to certify first;

A concern that States Parties with limited numbers of experts could be overburdened during the period of certification immediately following EIF;

A concern that normal observation flights are not constrained indefinitely by States Parties that do not certify for whatever reason;

A desire that observation flights are only conducted on an agreed bilateral basis during the period of initial certifications immediately following EIF.

As agreed by the OSCC (1), the Chairman of the GRPWG will call a meeting to which all States Parties are invited in order to discuss and agree on a schedule of certification by those States Parties which are ready to conduct a certification. This meeting will publish an initial certification schedule. This initial certification schedule will be for a fixed period of time following EIF, and include all States Parties that have an aircraft ready for certification. During this initial certification schedule, beginning and ending on agreed specific calendar dates, observation flights should be conducted in accordance with the Treaty and will be conducted only on an agreed bilateral basis.

(1) OSCC Chairman's States dated 23 September 1996